

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 08651 191000Z

11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05

OC-05 CCO-00 /073 W

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O 190909Z JUL 75 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5489

AMCONGEN ASMARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

COMNAVTELCOM IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMSTA NEA MAKRI IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMUNIT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PONS PFOR ET

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO: EPMG PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED

REF: A) ADDIS 8645; B) STATE 169796

1. EPMG RELEASED A STATEMENT (BELOW) WHICH WAS BROADCAST IN ENGLISH OVER ETHIOPOAN TELEVISION DURING THE NEWSCAST AT 2215 HOURS LOCAL JULY 18.

2. FULL TEXT OF STATE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE A SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAS DISCLOSED TODAY THAT TWO US CITIZENS AND FOUR ETHIOPIANS WORKING WITH THE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS UNIT IN ASMARA, ETHIOPIA, HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED AT APPROXIMATELY 11 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON 14 JULY 1975.

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THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE IDENTITY OF THE

ABDUCTORS HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED, HE PRESUMED THAT THEY MAY BE ELEMENTS CONNECTED WITH THE SECESSIONIST EFFORT IN ERITREA. NO WORD ON THE INTENTIONS OF THE ABDUCTORS HAS SO FAR BEEN RECEIVED. BUT IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THE AIM OF THE ABDUCTORS IS TO CREATE DIFFICULTY IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE ETHIOPIAN SECURITY FORCES ARE ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR THE ABDUCTORS WITH DUE PRECAUTION FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PERSONS IN THEIR HANDS. THE NAMES OF THE TWO US CITIZENS AND THE FOUR ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES ABDUCTED ARE MESSRS. STEVE CAMPBELL AND JIM HARREL, ATO TEFAMARIAM GETAHUN, ATO TEKLE KIDANE, ATO AFEWORK HIATA AND ATO ZERAI MARKOS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE UNITED STATES AND EMBODIED IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON 11 OCTOBER 1973, THE KAGNEW COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY IS NOW IN THE LAST STAGE OF ITS CLOSING DOWN. AT PRESENT THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT FORTY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF COLLINS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMPANY (CISCO), A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONRACTOR, WORKING AT THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.

IT IS TO BE RECALLED THAT THE KAGNEW COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED BY THE ITALIANS WHEN ERITREA WAS UNDER THEIR COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION. FOLLOWING THE ITALIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ERITREA, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO OPERATE IT WHEN THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY BETWEEN 1944 AND 1951. SINCE THEN THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY HAS BEEN OPERATED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNDER AN AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE UNITED STATES IN 1953. UNQUOTE.

3. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN SEPTTEL TO FOLLOW.
HUMMEL

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